



# BOSTON

## Suffolk County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Boston is an historic city of contrasts. Ancient red-brick sidewalks twist past handsome Federalist houses on the way to soaring glass towers housing state-of-the-art technology. The sports teams are the best loved and the most hated at one and the same time. Residents are fiercely protective of their neighborhoods and fiercely critical of the MBTA, the government and the weather. In the harbors of Boston lie both the majestic U.S.S. Constitution, still commissioned to fight America's battles, and scores of sleek white fiberglass pleasure boats. There are tiny restaurants tucked into rosy brick town houses on Beacon Hill and huge restaurants on the dizzying tops of skyscrapers in the downtown. Food ranges from the most radical of nouvelle chic to downhome Cajun.

Boston is a diverse modern city of neighborhoods. From the North End to Bay Village, Back Bay to the South End, Jamaica Plain to Charlestown, the city shows its diversity of populations, of languages, of foods and philosophies. Immigrants from every corner of the globe have been welcomed by the city and re-shaped into Americans whose memories and customs enrich the community.

Boston is a city where politics is everyone's hobby but sports are taken very seriously; where you can hear six different languages in Filene's Basement in one morning; where the world's largest record store and the stately dome of the Mother Church of Christian Science are in the same neighborhood, and where gilded stone lions and a towering 60-story wedge of glass comfortably rub shoulders.



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the east; Cambridge, Somerville, Everett, Chelsea, Watertown, and Revere on the north; Brookline, Newton, and Needham on the west; Dedham on the southwest; and Canton, Milton, and Quincy on the south. Boston is 106 miles south of Portland, Maine; 44 miles northeast of Providence, Rhode Island; 93 miles northeast of Hartford, Connecticut; and 218 miles northeast of New York City.

**Total Area:** 89.63 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 48.42 sq. miles

**Population:** 574,283

**Density:** 11,860 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Boston WSO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....28.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....73.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....41.5"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Boston South, Newton, Boston North, Norwood, Blue Hills, Hull, Lynn, Nantucket

## Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (617) 635-4000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Mayor-Council

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1630

As a city: 1822

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	225,326		
Democrats	133,424	59.2	%
Republicans	17,428	7.7	%
Other parties	46	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	74,428	33.0	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Boston city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	589,141	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	589,141	100.0
Male.....	283,588	48.1	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	85,089	14.4
Female.....	305,553	51.9	Mexican.....	4,126	0.7
Under 5 years.....	32,046	5.4	Puerto Rican.....	27,442	4.7
5 to 9 years.....	33,721	5.7	Cuban.....	2,221	0.4
10 to 14 years.....	32,553	5.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	51,300	8.7
15 to 19 years.....	43,631	7.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	504,052	85.6
20 to 24 years.....	70,084	11.9	White alone.....	291,561	49.5
25 to 34 years.....	124,762	21.2	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	86,420	14.7	Total population.....	589,141	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	63,554	10.8	In households.....	554,064	94.0
55 to 59 years.....	22,746	3.9	Householder.....	239,528	40.7
60 to 64 years.....	18,288	3.1	Spouse.....	66,747	11.2
65 to 74 years.....	31,154	5.3	Child.....	142,362	24.2
75 to 84 years.....	21,675	3.7	Own child under 18 years.....	100,177	17.0
85 years and over.....	8,507	1.4	Other relatives.....	41,110	7.0
Median age (years).....	31.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	13,170	2.2
18 years and over.....	472,582	80.2	Nonrelatives.....	65,317	11.1
Male.....	224,078	38.0	Unmarried partner.....	14,719	2.5
Female.....	248,504	42.2	In group quarters.....	35,077	6.0
21 years and over.....	432,815	73.5	Institutionalized population.....	8,481	1.4
62 years and over.....	71,847	12.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	26,596	4.5
65 years and over.....	61,336	10.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	23,435	4.0	Total households.....	239,528	100.0
Female.....	37,901	6.4	Family households (families).....	115,096	48.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	54,310	22.7
One race.....	563,263	95.6	Married-couple family.....	66,747	27.4
White.....	320,944	54.5	With own children under 18 years.....	28,219	11.8
Black or African American.....	149,202	25.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	39,366	16.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	2,365	0.4	With own children under 18 years.....	22,793	9.5
Asian.....	44,284	7.5	Nonfamily households.....	124,432	51.9
Asian Indian.....	4,442	0.8	Householder living alone.....	88,944	37.1
Chinese.....	19,638	3.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	21,796	9.1
Filipino.....	1,405	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	61,428	25.6
Japanese.....	2,384	0.4	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	45,350	18.9
Korean.....	2,564	0.4	Average household size.....	2.31	(X)
Vietnamese.....	10,818	1.8	Average family size.....	3.17	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	3,033	0.5	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	366	0.1	Total housing units.....	251,935	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	84	-	Occupied housing units.....	239,528	95.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	44	-	Vacant housing units.....	12,407	4.9
Samoan.....	77	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	161	-	occasional use.....	1,568	0.6
Some other race.....	46,102	7.8	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.0	(X)
Two or more races.....	25,878	4.4	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.0	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	239,528	100.0
White.....	334,684	56.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	77,226	32.2
Black or African American.....	163,006	27.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	162,302	67.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	5,384	0.9	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.51	(X)
Asian.....	47,634	8.1	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.22	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1,565	0.3			
Some other race.....	64,262	10.9			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Residential Building Permits** (New single and multi family; monthly, YTD & historical) -  
[U.S. Census Bureau Tables](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

2000 Census Year Round Units: 250,367

Total Development 2001: 49,490

Ch. 40B Units: 49,146

Percent Subsidized 2000 Base: 19.63%

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 2,860

Conventional Federal: 11,405

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 1,050

Federal (Section 8): 9,657



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Boston is New England's leading port; a regional rail, bus, and truck terminal center; and an important air transport center. Boston is a hub from which many highways extend to serve the city to the north, west and south.

### Major Highways

Route 128 forms a circumferential highway around Boston. The Central Artery gives access to the downtown area, and the Southeast Expressway extends to the South Shore area. The Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) crosses Route 128 in Weston and terminates in West Stockbridge, with an extension to the New York Thruway.

### Rail

Amtrak provides passenger service to New York City and Washington, D.C.. MBTA subway service is available on the Red, Orange, Green and Blue lines. Commuter rail service is available to both North and South Stations. Conrail and the Springfield Terminal Railway (STRR) offer freight service to Boston. Conrail has an intermodal facility in Allston and a Flexi-Flo terminal in Boston. Contact number for Conrail: (617) 783-6222; for STRR, (508) 663-1073.

### Bus

Boston is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which provides fixed route service within the city and to surrounding towns. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

### Other

Logan International Airport, easily accessible from downtown Boston, is the busiest Primary Commercial Service (PR) facility in New England. Also, Hanscom Field in Bedford and Norwood Memorial Airport provide commercial service. The Nashua Street Heliport is located near North Station. MBTA commuter boat service is available to Charlestown and to Hingham.



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# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company  
Faneuil Hall  
(617) 227-1638  
The Art Institute of Boston Gallery  
700 Beacon Street  
(617) 262-1223  
Boston Athenaeum  
10-1/2 Beacon Street  
(617) 227-0270  
Boston Fire Museum  
344 Congress Street  
(617) 338-9700  
Boston National Historical Park  
Charlestown Navy Yard  
(617) 242-5642  
Boston Public Library  
Copley Square  
(617) 536-5400  
Boston University Art Gallery  
855 Commonwealth Avenue  
(617) 353-3329  
Bromfield Gallery  
107 South Street  
(617) 451-3605  
The Children's Museum  
Museum Wharf  
300 Congress Street  
(617) 426-6500  
The Commonwealth Museum  
Columbia Point  
220 William T. Morrissey Blvd.  
(617) 727-9268  
The Computer Museum  
300 Congress Street  
(617) 426-2800  
Franklin Park Zoo  
Franklin Park Road  
(617) 442-4896  
The Gibson Society  
137 Beacon Street  
(617) 267-6338  
The Institute of Contemporary Art  
955 Boylston Street  
(617) 266-5152  
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum  
280 The Fenway  
(617) 566-1401  
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library-Museum  
Columbia Point

Department of Housing and Community Development  
Mitt Romney, Governor – Jane Wallis Gumble, Director

(617) 929-4500  
Massachusetts Historical Society  
1154 Boylston Street  
(617) 536-1608  
Museum of Fine Arts  
465 Huntington Avenue  
(617) 267-9300  
Museum of Science  
Science Park  
(617) 589-0100  
Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists  
300 Walnut Avenue  
(617) 442-8014  
New England Aquarium Corporation  
Central Wharf  
(617) 973-5200  
Nichols House Museum  
55 Mount Vernon Street  
(617) 227-6993  
Old South Meeting House  
Washington and Milk Streets  
(617) 482-6439  
Old State House-The Bostonian Society  
206 Washington Street  
(617) 720-1713  
The Paul Revere House  
19 N. Square  
(617) 523-2338  
Photographic Resource Center  
1002 Commonwealth Avenue  
(617) 353-0700  
Shirley-Eustis House  
33 Shirley Street  
(617) 442-2275  
The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiques,  
Harrison Gray Otis House  
141 Cambridge Street  
(617) 227-3956  
The Sports Museum of New England  
1175 Soldiers Field Road  
(617) 787-7678  
USS Constitution Museum Foundation  
National Historical Park  
Charlestown Navy Yard  
(617) 426-1812  
Arnold Arboretum of Harvard Univ.  
Roxbury Historical Society  
189 Roxbury Street, John Eliot Street, Roxbury  
(617) 722-2060  
Bunker Hill Museum  
43 Monument Square  
(617) 242-0817

## RECREATION

### [Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

### [Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)

Department of Housing and Community Development  
Mitt Romney, Governor – Jane Wallis Gumble, Director





# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Arbour Hospital  
Beth Israel Hospital  
Boston City Hospital  
Boston University Infirmary  
Brigham And Women's Hospital  
Carney Hospital  
Children's Hosp Medical Cente  
Crittenton Hastings House  
Dana Farber Cancer Center  
Faulkner Hospital Corp.  
Franciscan Children's & Rehab  
Hahnemann Hospital  
Hebrew Rehab Center For Aged  
Jewish Memorial Hospital  
Lane Health Center  
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital  
Mass. Eye And Ear Infirmary  
Mass. General Hospital  
Mass. Mental Health Center  
Mattapan Hospital  
New England Baptist Hospital  
New England Deaconess Hospital  
New England Medical Cente Hospital  
Shriner's Burn Institute  
Simmons College Health Center  
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital  
St. Elizabeth's Hospital Inc.  
St. John Of God Hospital  
St. Margaret's Hospital  
University Hospital, Inc.

### Long Term Care

Arborway Manor Convalescent Home  
Armenian Nursing Home  
Bayside Nursing Home  
Boston Home, Inc.  
Circle Manor Nursing Home  
Corey Hill Nursing Home  
Deutsches Altenheim, Inc.  
Don Orione Nursing Home  
Elm Hill Nursing Home  
Frank Wood Convalescent Home  
Goddard House, Retirement & Nursing Home  
Greenery Rehab. Center  
Hancock Manor Nursing Home  
Harbor Inn Nursing Home  
Hyde Park Convalescent Home  
Jordan Rehab. & Nursing Center

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Lagesse Manor Nursing Home  
Laurel Ridge Rehab. & Nursing Center  
Longwood Rehab. Center, Inc  
LTC @ Neponset:Bostonian N.C.  
LTC At Neponset:Ashmont Manor  
LTC At Neponset:Neponset Hall  
Marian Manor  
Mary Murphy Nursing Home  
Miltonview Nursing Home  
Nelson Manor Nursing Home  
New Medico R&SNC @ Columbus  
North End Community Nursing Home  
Oak Haven Nursing Home  
Oakwood Long Term Care Center  
Parkwell Hth Care Center  
Pond View Nursing Home  
Presentation Manor Nursing Home  
Provident Nursing Home  
Recuperative Center  
Resthaven Corporation  
Riverside Nursing Home  
Sheriff Manor Nursing Home  
Sherrill House, Inc.  
South Cove Manor Nursing Home  
St. Joseph Home  
Stadium Manor Nursing Home  
Star Of David Convalescent Home  
Stonehedge Convalescent Center, Inc.  
Union Square Nursing Center  
VFW Parkway Nursing Home  
Village Manor Nursing Home, Inc  
West Roxbury Manor Nursing Home

## Hospices

Good Samaritan Hospice, Inc.  
Hospice Of Boston, Inc.  
Trinity Hospital of Greater Boston

## Rest Homes

Almeida Rest Home  
Ann's Rest Home  
Burgoyne Rest Home  
Cushing Manor CSF, Inc.  
Fairmount Rest Home, Inc.  
Gardner House Rest Home  
Hale House  
Melville Rest Home  
Mt. Pleasant Home  
Norwegian Old Peoples Home  
Park Dale Rest Home  
Rodger Rest Home  
Roxbury Home For Aged Women

## UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.